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10 East 36th Street,

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Prof. Hermann Watson

Dear Sir

Let me thank you for your interest in my works on the Characeae - I have worked at them many years - formerly corresponded with Prof. A. Braun and have collected a large number from different parts of the country - At present I am writing up the Characeae of the Canadian surveys for Prof. Macoun; they are most interesting having some new and transitional species; one I have named C. evoluta.

More than 20 years ago Prof. A. Braun named a Tolypella Californica from the Pacific coast and several rare species are known from there, for example N. clavata from the San Francisco water works. It would give me great pleasure to write ^{up} the western species for you, or to name and return any you might like to send me & I am, naturally, desirous to obtain all the species of the continent for my work, which already embraces over fifty species and distinct varieties - Tolypella prolifera A. Br. from the upper Missouri (Hayden) I am anxious to obtain, can you put me in the way of it?

The late Prof. Braun wrought order in the Characeae which were in a chaotic state and his system of classification, based upon morphological characters seems to stand the test - I regret that Mr. Halsted in his brief

and imperfect account of our species seem fit to follow a trivial classification devoid of any principle. His work is deserving of severe criticisms. The worst errors are as follows.

Nitella Capitata in Halsted should be N. glomerulifera A. Br.

" relatiosa var sigaulia " " " N. prelonga A. Br. 1852

" intertexta " " " " N. megacarpa Allen - (This species is a representative of the polyglottis series which characterize the Nitella of this continent, we have also of this series N. microcarpa A. Br. and N. oligaspora var wrightii A. Br. of the Mexican boundary survey and other varieties of the polyglottis series. These occur also in Asia but not in Europe

Chara ceratophylla is doubtful the Florida ~~specimens~~ belong to C. Hornemannii

" Habermanni Halsted is the old C. Hydrophilis which I knew from New Jersey and the west; Nordstedt thinks our forms are sufficiently distinct to be named var. septentrionalis (see my Exsiccatæ). I visited Apponaug purposely to identify the species there.

Several distinct varieties of C. gymnopus named by Braun in Plantae Lindheimeri and elsewhere are entirely overlooked by Halsted.

The Gymnopodae are strongly marked on this continent. Those of the Unistipulatae C. Hydrophilis (monocious) and C. Hornemannii (dioicious), are well represented.

of the Bistipulatae C. gymnopus with its varieties, and C. sejuncta are widely known and diffused all these Gymnopodae are also found in Asia but not in Europe.

we are beginning to trace the distinguishing features of our American Characeae.

There still remain some points in the development and nutrition of these plants to be elucidated. I am trying to do something in this direction but shall not "rush into print" yet.

Allen
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